

Medical Monitoring Program For Joint Labor Management Trust Funds

NIOSH Best Practices in
Workplace Surveillance for
Individuals Engaged in
Asbestos Removal and
Hazardous Materials Handling

*M. Donald Whorton, Roger Hamilton,
James Watkins, Thomas Gutierrez,
Steve Steele*

Trust Fund Participants

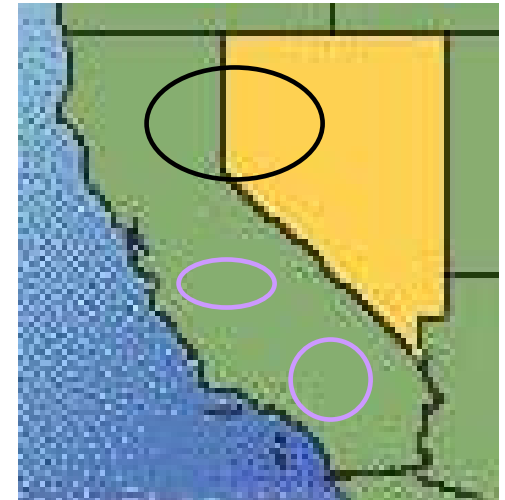
International Association of Heat and Frost Insulation
and Asbestos Workers, Local 5 and Local 16 and



Western Insulation Contractors Association (WICA)

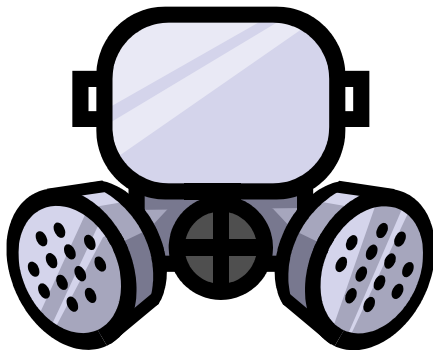
Union Jurisdictions Large

- Local 5
 - Southern California to Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo
- Local 16
 - Northern California and Northern Nevada



Union's Concerns

- Supply Union Contractors with Labor at Competitive Rate
- Assure Wages for Workers



- Assure Safety of Workplace

Union Actions

- Maintenance and Hazardous Material Categories of Union Membership
- Pay Scale Different from Journeyman Insulator
- 40 Hours of Required Training for Asbestos Abatement Medical Examination per CAL/OSHA Standard
- Did not need to be in or complete 4-year Apprenticeship Program

Union

- Manages Program
- Runs the Training Program
- Contracted with Donald Whorton, M.D., to Establish and Manage Medical Monitoring Program

Medical Program Examination Contents

- Asbestos Questionnaire (English and Spanish)
- Physical Examination
- Vision Test
- Urinalysis
- Spirometry
- Chest X-Ray (Independent “B” Reader)



Medical Program Administration

- Developed Relationship and Contracts for Local Providers
- Receive all Examination Results, Including X-Rays from Local Providers
- Review all Results
- Issue Clearances
- Inform Participants of Results
- Retain all Medical Records and X-Ray per CAL/OSHA Regulations

CAL/OSHA Audits

- Program has been Audited Several Times
- Always Found to be in Compliance
- Some Education Required to Show Compliance in Initial Years

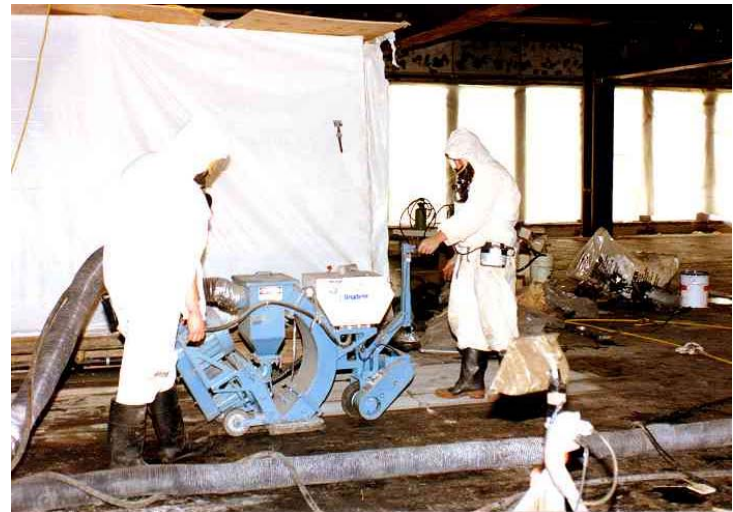


Expansion of Program

- Lead Abatement in 1995 in Local 5
- Established Protocol
- All Workers First Asbestos Abatement Approved
- Added Components to Comply with Lead Standard
- Met CAL/OSHA Regulations

Nature of Work

- Use of Respirators and Protective Clothing
- Hot and Dirty
- Relative Low Pay Scale
- Short-Term Jobs



Nature of Workforce

- High Percentage of Spanish Speaking
- Mexican and Central American Origins
- Variable Educational Levels
- Transient for Multiple Reasons



Local 5 Participants

8,073	Total Number
15,596	Total Examinations



Local 5 Participants (continued)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Year</u>
384	2001 (through August)
457	2000
441	1999

Local 16 Participants

1,195 Total Number

2,130 Total Examinations



Local 16 Participants (continued)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Year</u>
128	2001 (through August)
223	2000
162	1999

Local 5 Outcomes

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Number of Exams	457	384	344
Normal Clearances	387	316	277
Restricted Clearances	70	68	70
Advice Letters	87	70	97

Advice

Vision Issues	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Not cleared for driving	11	3
May need new prescription	3	0
May benefit with glasses	35	24
Blood Pressure Check		
Borderline	26	20
Mildly Elevated	3	5

Advice (continued)

Urine Abnormalities	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Blood	4	0
Glucose	2	3
Protein	5	1
Hernia Assessment	2	1
Blood in Stool	2	1
Respiratory Abnormalities		
Obstructive Pattern	7	1
Restrictive Pattern	2	0
Other	8	6

Categories of Clearance Restrictions for Local 5

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Corrective Lenses	46	55
Lifting	2	2
No Heights	1	0
PAPR if Necessary	3	1
Temporary	4	4
Not Cleared for Driving	11	3
Other	0	2
Not Cleared	0	1

Chest X-Ray Results

Local 5

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Normal	237	234
Pleural Thickening/Plaques	4	2
Subpleural Fat/Muscle	4	2
Granulomata	8	8
Smoking Changes	37	38
Spine Changes	17	16
Other	11	12

Blood Lead Results

<u>μg/dl</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
< 5	18	29
5-9	6	3
10-14	1	2
15-19	0	0
20-24	1	0
≥ 25	0	0

Program Successes

- Participants Received Annual Exam
- Consistent Review of Medical Records Contributed to Quality Program Processes
- Provided Centralized Storage Benefit
- Met all Cal/OSHA Compliance Standards

Conclusions

- Multiple site program successful
- Transient workforce
- Detection of unknown conditions
- Almost no changes related to asbestos
- Blood lead levels low

For Further Information



M. Donald Whorton, MD Vice President/Epidemiologist

1320 Harbor Bay Parkway, #115

Alameda, CA 94502

(800) 455-6155

E-mail: info@workcare.com